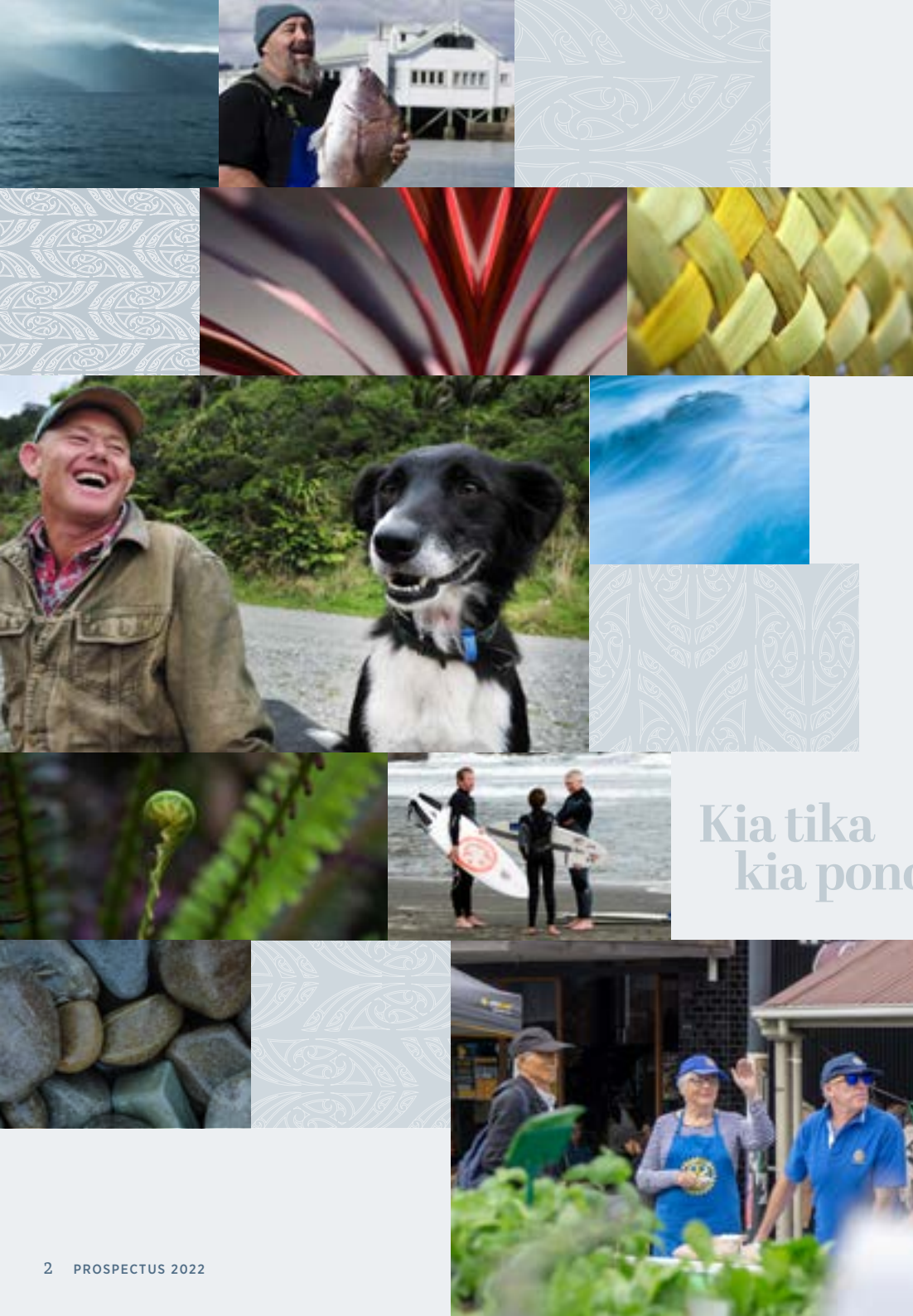


# PROSPECTUS | 2024

*Ākona kia tika, whāngaia kia pono, ruia ki te motu,  
kia āta whakawā mārire i tēnā, i tēnā.*

*Teach to be just, educate to be true, serve the  
community with care.*

**Kia tika  
kia pono**



Te Kura Kaiwhakawā (Te Kura) provides education and resources that support the judiciary to be skilled, humane, diligent and efficient. Te Kura is judge-led and connected to the communities it serves. Te Kura's vision is to create relevant legal and contextual judicial education and resources, and opportunities for judges to exchange ideas and support one another.

## Curriculum

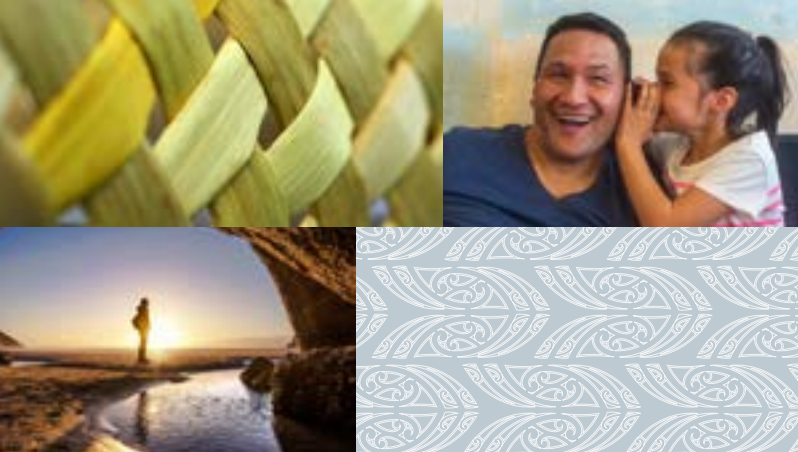
Te Kura has a curriculum of judicial education that guides programme development. The programmes are for judges at every career stage, and address generalist and bench-specific needs.

The curriculum integrates four key areas of judicial education:

1. The role of the judge
2. The context of the judicial function
3. Skills and judge craft
4. Renewal and resilience.

Kia tika  
kia pono





**The role of the judge** covers three areas:

- induction
- the role of the judge generally
- special functions, courts and delivery.

Courses include induction programmes with skills and judge craft as part of their content, as well as annual seminars for specific benches and jurisdictions.

**The context of the judicial function** explores both the social and legal context of being a judge in Aotearoa New Zealand. The social context curriculum includes core programmes and courses covering areas such as te reo Māori and tikanga (including noho marae), diversity, the dynamics of family violence, and understanding the impact of sexual violence. The legal context curriculum is delivered through update seminars on substantive law, common room sessions, and webinars on new or complex areas of law.

**Skills and judge craft** focuses on management skills (such as courtroom management and communication), evaluative skills (evidence and procedure, decision making, bail, and risk assessment), and delivery skills (oral judgments and judgment writing).

**Renewal and resilience** supports judges to judge well. It covers leadership, mentoring, managing workload, and mental and physical wellbeing. It is aimed at re-invigorating judges, harnessing the experience of longer-serving judges in managing this challenging role.

## Programme development and delivery

Te Kura programmes are developed and delivered with input from judges and subject-matter experts. Programmes are interactive and include discussion, practice sessions, scenarios, and analytical frameworks. Resources are made available through the Te Kura intranet.

## Booking information

Book online using the seminar booking system in JAX. After the closing date, applications are sent to the relevant Head of Bench for approval (for District Court and High Court judges only). Judges will be notified about which seminars they have been approved to attend. Attendances from any other benches are automatically confirmed.

Te Kura organises attendance at the bench-specific updates, common room sessions and orientations directly through Heads of Bench and Judicial Resource Managers.

## Travel information

Te Kura pays for travel and overnight expenses (where appropriate) when a judge is attending a seminar away from the location of their home court. Te Kura uses Corporate Cabs and local cab services wherever possible. Judges attending Te Kura seminars do not qualify for daily allowance rates.

Te Kura face-to-face seminars generally start at 9.30am on the first day to allow for early morning travel, and 9am on subsequent days. There will be circumstances where same-day travel is not practical or reasonable so please contact us to discuss other options.

Te Kura adheres to the Ministry of Justice's sensitive expenditure guidelines where appropriate. Breakfast is usually provided at the accommodation hotel, and lunch at the seminar venue. Where an evening meal is not provided, Te Kura will reimburse up to \$45 per person. Alcohol and any mini-bar costs are not covered.

When claiming mileage, the rate is 83 cents per km.

## Evaluating programmes

Evaluation provides important feedback to help Te Kura develop and improve the programmes offered. Completion of the online evaluation for Te Kura programmes is an essential element of the evaluation process. A link will be sent out after the conclusion of the programme.



## PROGRAMMES FOR 2024

### Te reo Māori wānanga for proficient speakers

He rumaki reo Māori tēnei wānanga. Ko te whāinga kia whai wā ngā ākonga ki te whakapakari i tōna reo Māori, kia hōhonu ake, kia whakaniko ake, kia Māori ake.

Te reo Māori is an important aspect of the Te Kura curriculum. This rumaki (immersion) wānanga is aimed at speakers with an intermediate to advanced level of proficiency. It is expected that te reo Māori will in the main be the only language spoken during the noho marae wānanga. The wānanga encompasses aspects of tikanga and kawa and is led by an experienced faculty of kaiako (teachers). The objective of the wānanga is to strengthen the depth, quality and fluency of your reo.

→ 26 February–1 March 2024

### Tikanga—the roles of wāhine Māori (Māori women)

This programme is an opportunity to further build on your judicial knowledge acquired through participation in the Tikanga and Noho marae courses. It is an opportunity to explore the roles of Māori women in their society and the associated values and customs related to those roles. It will assist judges of all genders to make informed decisions when dealing with Māori women and/or their families. Given the disproportionate number of Māori women and girls in our judicial system, this opportunity should not be missed.

There are no lectures; rather there are active wānanga sessions designed to enhance awareness of each of the departmental goddesses and ancestors associated with Māori women and their roles. It is offered in both English and te reo Māori (depending on participant competency). Background reading: Patricia Grace and Robyn Kahukiwa *Wāhine Toa: Women of Māori Myth* (Viking Pacific, 1991).

→ 14–15 March 2024

### Child-responsive decision-making

The statutory context of the care and protection jurisdiction can be seen as: aligning with the dual function (therapeutic and judicial) of the Family Court; engaging the principles of biculturalism in Te Tiriti; and, consistent with the processes of solution-focused judging. Achieving practical and effective outcomes to support the wellbeing of children, families and whānau requires a sound understanding of the complex legal context and the ability to effectively see and respond to the lived experiences of those coming to court. In this seminar judges will be supported, in the care and protection context, to explore and respond to the challenges created by the need for: timely fact-finding, informed evaluation of risk assessments and expert reports; careful management of judicial meetings; and, the enforcement of court directions.

→ 4–5 April 2024

### Te Reo Māori one-day wānanga for judges (two options available)

The one-day wānanga is an opportunity for judges to develop and enhance their ability to connect with Māori in the courtroom through te reo Māori. The wānanga is for all levels of proficiency, with participants streamed into groups depending on their level of competency. Judges who have completed the beginner and/or advanced beginner online courses may find this wānanga beneficial. Experienced kaiako guide participants through an interactive and practical day with a key objective to develop and build confidence using te reo, both in the courtroom and daily life.

→ 12 April 2024  
and 29 November 2024

### Oral judgments

Over two days you will focus on the structure and delivery of oral judgments. The programme will cover preparation, note taking, reasoning, delivery and credibility findings. You will be recorded delivering oral judgments and receive feedback and coaching.

→ 9–10 May 2024







### Responding to diversity and vulnerabilities 1: Decision-making and court communication

At this seminar you will explore several aspects of the judicial role in the courtroom, including how the human brain works and impacts the decision-making process. Judges will delve into unconscious bias that may arise from factors such as beliefs and stereotyping; diverse thinking will be encouraged as you are exposed to lenses and experiences different to your own. The seminar provides a forum in which you can assess and build cultural competence and safety, developing greater awareness and understanding of different communities, cross-cultural experiences and potential barriers experienced in court. Seminar leaders will also address the barriers conventional practice presents to courts receiving “best evidence”, including in sexual cases and those involving allegations of family violence.

→ 16–17 May 2024

### Sentencing intensive

This two-day seminar will provide options for judges to strengthen their skills around sentencing practice. Participants will be divided into groups and have the opportunity to draft and deliver a sentence with the assistance of Faculty and group members. Materials and presentations provided at the seminar will include updates on appellate cases and current approaches to a range of disposition options.

→ 13–14 June 2024

### Responding to diversity and vulnerabilities 2: Disposition and treatment

This seminar is the progression from *Responding to diversity and vulnerabilities 1* and provides judges with the opportunity to explore changes to the way courts can deliver both fair processes and just outcomes. Topics include understanding the significance of cultural reports, restorative processes, assisting effective courtroom participation by defendants and engagement with victims/survivors. Judges will also be supported to identify opportunities for therapeutic interventions, including community-driven options. The discussions will draw on the principles and practices of Te Ao Mārama.

→ 20–21 June 2024

### Assessing expert evidence

Attendance at this seminar will assist judges to confidently evaluate expert opinion evidence, with a view to admission and assessments of weight, in a range of contexts and covering varying subject matter. Topics will be confirmed in response to the interests and needs of the participants. The programme will be delivered using separate group discussions focussed on criminal, civil and/or family proceedings. Areas of consideration are likely to include communicating with and questioning experts and report writers; identifying the differences between clinically-based and research-based opinions; understanding forensic accounting and valuations; understanding developing technologies and neuroscience; and emerging learnings regarding the impact of the interaction between alcohol and drugs.

→ 4–5 July 2024

### Evidence and procedure 1: Principles

Key to a judge’s work are the tasks of analysing evidential issues, applying the law to those issues, and giving reasoned decisions. This discussion-focused two-day workshop is a first-principles introduction to the Evidence Act 2006. It provides the tools to navigate the Act and supports judges to learn how to deal with evidential issues that routinely arise during trials, criminal or civil. This is a required course for all judges starting out in their role and will assist the development of the skills and confidence needed to make admissibility decisions both pre-trial and as they arise in a pressured environment.

→ 22–23 July 2024

### Applying the Evidence Act 2006 in the family law context: Continuing the discussion

This one-day offering builds on the programme that was first offered in October 2022. It is expected that those who enrol (either Family Court judges or those hearing appeals in family matters) will have either attended the 2022 programme or have viewed the on-line recording. You are therefore presumed to understand the principles of admissibility and the structure of the Evidence Act 2006, so you can contribute to discussion of challenging issues and procedural pressure identified by other attendees and the Faculty.

→ 24 July 2024



## Evidence and procedure 2: Progression

This programme is specifically aimed at judges who have attended the “Principles” offering and are seeking a refresher and update focused on contemporary challenges in a range of scenarios, including civil, criminal and appellate work. The discussion-based seminar led by trial judges, academics and those in the appeal courts will provide plenty of time for wrangling with difficult scenarios, including those participants will bring to the programme. You will also work through examples provided by the Faculty to hone your skills in determining admissibility, controlling the questioning process and drafting content of directions.

→ 25–26 July 2024

## Tikanga

Judges must have an understanding of tikanga/Māori protocols, whether to use this knowledge in the courtroom or outside it. Judges also need a basic awareness of tikanga as law—both procedural and substantive—and where it is contained in statutory directives and as part of the wider Aotearoa New Zealand common law. You will be introduced to both in a noho marae environment where you will be staying and sleeping for the three-day wānanga.

Under the leadership of tikanga experts, and senior judges experienced in dealing with tikanga as law, you will develop an understanding of procedural and substantive tikanga alongside a safe awareness of the limits of that knowledge, and an understanding of when and how to seek help.

→ 16–18 October 2024

## Noho marae

The marae visit is an unrivalled opportunity to better understand tikanga and to build whanaungatanga (collegiality) with other judges. It offers a unique opportunity to explore Māori culture and life on the marae, where there is a clear expression of tikanga Māori. You will be formally welcomed onto the marae where kaumātua will present aspects of tikanga and explain the significance of land and history. You will be guided by judicial colleagues throughout your stay. Past attendees have described the visit as inspirational, valuable, and as having made a deep impact on them personally and professionally.

→ 7–10 November 2024

## Judgment writing

Simplify, streamline and strengthen your judgments under the guidance of a panel of experts. The presenters—a mix of professional writers and judges from the Senior Courts and the District Court—will outline the principles of good writing as they apply to judgments, including the importance of writing for your audience and developing a personal style. They will then guide you through re-writing one of your own judgments so that you can apply the principles presented at the seminar and reinforce your understanding of this key aspect of judge craft.

→ 20–22 November 2024

## Orientation seminars

### Judicial intensive

All new judges complete our intensive programme, designed to help with the transition to life on the bench. Experienced judges lead presentations and discussions on aspects of court craft, with an emphasis on the skills that judges are called upon to apply immediately, including judicial conduct, social context issues, courtroom management, judgment delivery, bail, sentencing, and dealing with media. The programme is an opportunity to enjoy the friendship of new colleagues and benefit from the experience of senior colleagues. Your Head of Bench will make arrangements for your attendance and the scheduling of your roster.

→ 26 May–31 May 2024





A series of one- and two-day orientation seminars will be provided during 2024 for the following specific bench warranted judges:

- Jury judge orientation (open to High Court and District Court judges)
- Youth Court judge orientation (as required)

No application is required. Your Head of Bench will oversee arrangements for your attendance and the scheduling of your roster.

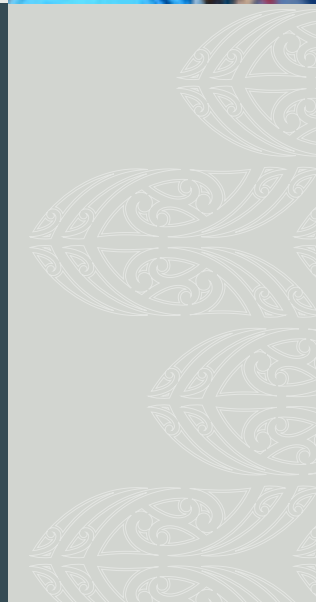
### Bench-specific seminars

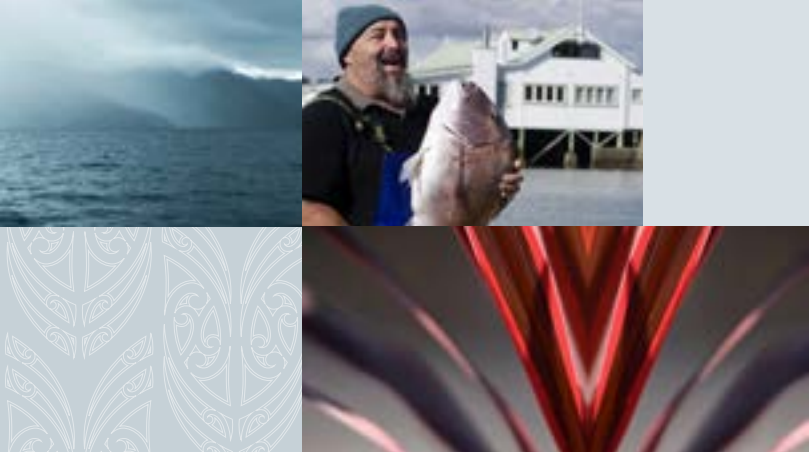
A series of one-day seminars will be conducted regionally to update judges on topics relevant to the work of each bench. No application is required. Your Head of Bench will oversee arrangements for your attendance and the scheduling of your roster. In 2024, seminars will be conducted for:

- Senior Courts updates
- Māori Land Court updates
- Environment Court updates
- District Court updates

## Attending New Zealand Law Society Continuing Legal Education courses

New Zealand Law Society Continuing Legal Education (CLE) welcomes the attendance of judges free of charge at all CLE programmes. The only exception is a charge for any attendance at a dinner included in a two-day conference. For further information about available programmes, please refer to [www.lawyerseducation.co.nz](http://www.lawyerseducation.co.nz).





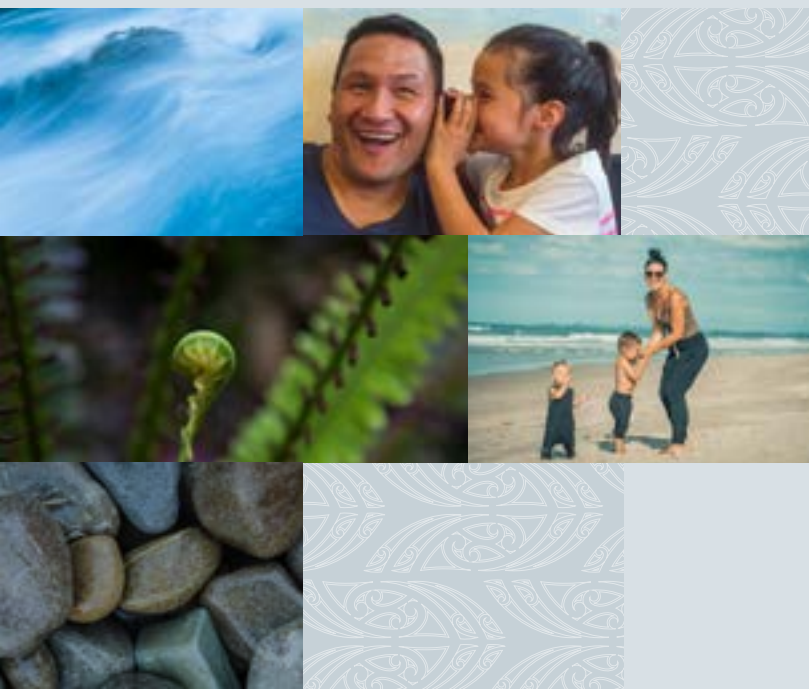
## TE KURA KAIWHAKAWĀ CONTACTS

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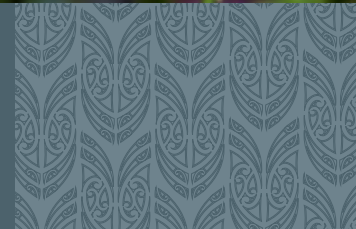
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Kia tika  
kia pono

